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1: Mol Endocrinol. 1991 Jan;5(1):123-33.

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A mammary-specific promoter directs expression of growth hormone not only to the mammary gland, but also to Bergman glia cells in transgenic mice.

Gunzburg WH, Salmons B, Zimmermann B, Muller M, Erfle V, Brem G.

Abteilung fur Molekulare Zellpathologie, GSF-Munich, Neuherberg, Germany.

The whey acidic protein (WAP) promoter has been previously used to target the expression of heterologous genes to the mammary glands of transgenic mice. To direct the expression of human GH (hGH) to mouse mammary glands, hGH-coding sequences have been coupled to WAP promoter sequences (WAP-hGH). Female transgenic mice carrying the WAP-hGH constructs show expression of hGH in the mammary gland, demonstrating the functionality of the transgenes. However, when other organs from these transgenic mice were examined, high level expression of hGH was unexpectedly observed in the brains of all male and female mice. Using in situ hybridization or immunohistochemistry, hGH expression from the transgene was seen to occur specifically in Bergman glia cells. In contrast, mice carrying hGH-coding sequences linked to the metallothionein promoter do not express hGH in these cells. Neither the endogenous WAP gene nor at least three other transgenes in which heterologous genes have been placed under the transcriptional control of the WAP promoter are expressed in the brain. Thus, we propose that the combination of the WAP promoter and the hGH structural gene results in a novel tissue specificity in the Bergman glia.

PMID: 2017187 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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[Unexpected transgene expression of a mammary-specific growth hormone gene construct in Bergmann glial cells of the mouse.]

High level production of human growth hormone in the milk of transgenic mice: the upstream region of the rabbit whey acidic protein (WAP) gene targets transgene expression to the mammary gland. [Transgenic Res. 1994]

Expression of whey acidic protein (WAP) genes in tissues other than the mammary gland in normal and transgenic mice expressing mWAP/hGH fusion genes. [Mol Reprod Dev. 1995]

Targeted c-myc gene expression in mammary glands of transgenic mice induces mammary tumours with constitutive milk protein gene transcription. [EMBO J. 1988]

A milk protein gene promoter directs the expression of human tissue plasminogen activator cDNA to the mammary gland in transgenic mice. [Blood. 1993]

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